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Council on Aging Minutes 03/18/2004

ARLINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING
 27 Maple Street, Arlington, MA 02476-4909 781-316-3400

Mara Klein Collins Chair; Dorothy Nicholas Vice-Chair; Shirley Chapski, Secretary

Regular Meeting of the Council on Aging
 March 18, 2004
 MINUTES

Place and Time of Meeting: Arlington Senior Center, 27 Maple St., Arlington, 7:30 p.m. Members Present: Dorothy Nicholas, Harry McCabe, Mildred Hurd, Lynne Larkin, Elizabeth McGaffigan, Ruth Palumbo and Shirley Chapski. Absent: Mara Klein Collins and Sheri Baron Others Present: John Jope, COA Executive Director; Patsy Kraemer, Director of Human Services, Town of Arlington; and Charles Schwab, President ASA

Quorum Identification/Call to Order: Dorothy Nicholas, Vice-Chair, presided and called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Shirley Chapski kept the minutes. A quorum of 7 was present.

Minutes of the February 19, 2004 Meeting: Lynne moved to receive the minutes of the February 19, 2004 meeting; Ruth seconded; all in favor. Harry moved to approve the minutes for purposes of discussion, Shirley seconded, all in favor. Harry moved to approve the minutes as written, Shirley seconded, all in favor.

REPORTS: Patsy Kraemer spoke on Human Services budget requests for '05. She has given the Town a level funded budget this year although in the COA and Board of Health budgets, she asked for a full time secretary for each division. Patsy next reported that the nonprofit corporation, Arlington Health and Human Services Charitable Corporation, has been established. The granting of nonprofit status will allow access to the Symmes Hospital Fund. The committee overseeing the Fund consists of 3 members from Leahy and 3 from Arlington and the money has to be spent on health programs for people in the greater Arlington area. Patsy will generate a proposal for funds very shortly. Harry requested a copy of the organization's by laws and a list of the members and Patsy will get that information to the board. Next, Patsy and the board discussed the possibility of the board becoming more involved in the process of selecting new members to the COA board. It was suggested we get in touch with the Town Manager. Dotie will recommend to Mara that she and Lynne meet with the Town Manager to see if there is a way that we could become involved in the selection process. Patsy departed the meeting at 8:20.

Executive Director's Report

- **Governor's Budget:** House 1—the Governor's Proposed Budget level funded almost all line items under the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. The funding amounts to \$4.93 per elder per year. John will keep us informed as he learns more.
- **Minuteman Region COA Annual Legislative Breakfast:** The breakfast was held at the Burlington COA on Thurs, March 18, 2004. Shirley, Mildred and Elizabeth as well as John attended. Shirley reported that she enjoyed key speaker, Al Norman, Mass Home Care, and his comments on elder advocacy. The legislators who were present also spoke and were sympathetic to elderly issues. Elizabeth said people from other councils gave their "stories."
- **CDBG Proposals:** John thanked those members who attended the Selectmen's meeting on Mon, March 15, to lend support to the COA's application for CDBG funding.
- **MCOA Newsletter:** John referred the members to the Feb 29, 2004 issue which reports on Gov. Romney's Supplemental Bill filed Feb 18. It pledges to help elders stay in their own homes and avoid premature nursing home care for as long as possible. The bill called Helping Our Mass. Elders (HOME). John also talked of the Discount Drug Card Program will begin enrollment in May 2004, and Property Tax Relief for Seniors. He also distributed an article Getting Ready for the Baby Boomers, by Jennifer Davis Carey, Sec. Of the MA EOE. In two years this generation will reach retirement. In anticipation, the EOE has begun the Boomer Ready Initiative to prepare for the demands of the aging boomers.

ASA Representative to the COA: Charles reported that the ASA (a) plans to restart the Walking Club and hopes to have a group,

"Walking Arlington," and members from historical society become involved. (b) plans to start a computer class soon, and (c) will conduct an Indoor Yard Sale in May. Dottie referred Charles to his report last month on outside parties using the senior center after hours and on weekends and the problems that arise from time to time. Sheri contacted Kevin O'Brien but Kevin felt because there were so few complaints he would not do anything at this time. Charles said a cabinet will be stocked with cleaning items for those using the facility to clean up after themselves.

Sevovan Bequest Committee: No report but Harry is open to any questions from the board.

COA Representative/Liaison to Minuteman Senior Services: Harry attended the March 3rd meeting and the two impressions he carried away from the meeting were: that Minuteman Senior Services is a very professional, first-class operation and we should be proud that this Council was instrumental in creating Minuteman; and, secondly, Joan Butler meets monthly with all the directors of senior centers. Harry will report on meetings he attends but feels John should report to the Board on the meetings of the COA Directors because he may have information that is different.

COA Representative/Liaison to Arl. Seniors Association: No report. Mildred said she has not been receiving notices of meetings. Charles will see that she receives notices in the future.

TRIAD Committee: Dottie reported that in response to a request for information on the TRIAD program, a lot of data has come in-- people are eager to share. She and Lt. Serson will review the information on TRIAD as well as on another program entitled, Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT). Field trips to communities involved in TRIAD are planned. The Arlington Citizens' Police Academy is running a 6-week program beginning shortly which she hopes seniors will become involved in.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Job Description-- COA Member: A meeting of the committee to review the job description will be held Tues, Mar 23 at 7 p.m.
- Joint ASA/COA Fund raising Committee: No. report.

NEW BUSINESS

- Automatic External Defibrillator (AED): Harry began a discussion on having an AED at the senior center. He also questioned the lack of an oxygen supply. The center did have an oxygen supply at one time but the tank was disposed of when it reached its expiration date and it was not replaced. Harry requested that it be recorded in the minutes of this meeting that he strongly recommends the purchase of an AED and having it installed in a central location along with a new oxygen supply to be kept in a designated place.
- Pay As You Throw Committee: Elizabeth has volunteered to serve as the COA's representative on this committee and Harry suggested that it be put on next month's meeting agenda for discussion, at which time he will recommend "no action" on the Pay As You Throw. The committee meets twice a month and Elizabeth will have a report for the next meeting.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Lynne moved to adjourn, Shirley seconded; all in favor. Adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Shirley Chapski, Secretary

Date of next Regular Meeting, April 15, 2004 at 7:30 p.m.